

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 5, 6 and 9 have been amended. Thus, claims 1-9 are now active in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

Minor amendments to the specification and abstract have been made in order to correct various editorial and idiomatic errors. No new matter has been added by such amendments.

In item 1 on pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tadanobu et al.(U.S. 6,680,841). This rejection is respectfully traversed in part, and it is believed especially inapplicable to the claims as amended, for the following reasons.

With reference to the present drawing figures, claim 1 sets forth a solid electrolytic capacitor comprising: a capacitor element 1 having an anode section 3 and a cathode section 4 formed by separating an anode body 1A made of a valve action metal, the capacitor element 1 having a dielectric oxide film layer 1B, a solid electrolyte layer, and a cathode layer that are sequentially laminated on a surface of the cathode section 4; and an anode lead frame 5 for supporting the anode section 3, the anode lead frame 5 having a joint surface 5P for supporting the anode section 3, the joint surface 5P of the anode lead frame 5 having a first through hole 5A therein; wherein the anode section 3 is coupled to the anode lead frame 5 via the first through hole 5A.

Similarly, claim 9 is directed to a method of manufacturing a solid electrolytic capacitor, comprising: loading an anode section 3 of a capacitor element 1, the anode section 3 and a cathode section 4 being formed by separating an anode body 1A made of valve action metal and having a dielectric oxide frame layer 1A, a solid electrolyte layer, and a cathode layer that are sequentially laminated on a surface of the cathode section 4; providing an anode lead frame 5 having a joint surface 5P for supporting the anode section 3 of the capacitor element 1, the joint surface 5P of the anode lead frame 5 having a through hole 5A therein; and resistance-welding the anode section 3 to the anode lead frame 5 via the through hole 5A.

Thus, according to the present invention as specifically set forth in claims 1 and 9, the anode section 3 of the capacitor element 1 is coupled to the anode lead frame 5 via a first through hole 5A that is formed in a joint surface 5P **of the anode lead frame 5**.

It is noted that claim 1, prior to the present amendment, also required the anode lead frame to have the first through hole (i.e., "said anode lead frame **having** a first through hole in a joint surface for supporting the anode section"). Similarly, claim 9 prior to the present amendment also required the anode section to be resistance-welded to the anode lead frame via a through hole disposed in a joint surface **of the anode lead frame**.

In contrast to the present invention as set forth in claims 1 and 9, the Tadanobu et al. patent does not disclose or suggest a solid electrolytic capacitor such as that of the present invention, wherein anode section 19 of the capacitor element 17 is coupled to the anode lead frame 22 via a through hole **formed in the anode lead frame**, as required by claims 1 and 9. Rather, in Tadanobu et al., the through hole 21 is formed in the anode section 19 of the capacitor element 17, not in the anode lead frame 22 as required by claims 1 and 9.

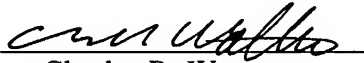
Thus, because of this clear distinction between the present invention as recited in each of claims 1 and 9 and the Tadanobu et al. patent, it is believed apparent that claims 1 and 9 are not anticipated by the Tadanobu et al. patent. Furthermore, there is no teaching or suggestion in Tadanobu et al. patent or in any of the references of record that would have motivated a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Tadanobu et al. arrangement or to make any combination of the references of record in such a manner as to result in or otherwise render obvious the present invention of claims 1 and 9. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 9, as well as claims 2-8 which depend from claim 1, are clearly allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is clearly in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

If, after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner feels there are any issues remaining which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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